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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you in regards to docket numbers 98N-1230, 96P-0418 and 97P-0197. As a member of the Northwest Animal Rights Network and compassionate human, I feel that the practice of the forced molting of hens is an abhorred procedure that must be banned for the benefit of both humans and the animals.

The FDA has the jurisdiction to ban farm practices such as forced molting that injure human health and I feel that you should use that jurisdiction in this case. This practice should be prohibited because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying hen's immune system. Fourteen days of starvation would do that to any living thing. More must be done than putting bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating egg refrigeration temperatures, especially if this disease promoting practice is allowed to continue.

The FDA must ban the forced molting of laying hens. It would not only reduce egg borne illness, but also lessen the pain and stress that some living creatures will experience. Forced molting is said to be a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs because it destroys the hen's immune system, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella poison. The only thing more effective in reducing illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs would be to ban eggs altogether. Not a bad idea, but I'll save that for another time.

Thank You,

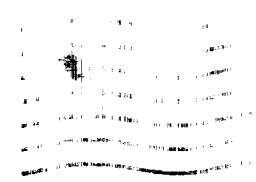
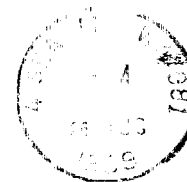


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98N 1230

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ *C429*

See File Number:

97P-0197/ *C430*
96P-0418/ *C429*